

MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING
Ramada Lansing Hotel and Conference Center
7501 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48917
January 17, 2014 @10:00 AM

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Mast called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMISSION ROLL CALL

The Commission roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Harold Mast, Michael Burri, Shannon English, Joan Ilardo, Gerald Irby, Donna Murray-Brown, Donald Newport, Richard Ortega, Renee' Reid-Smith, Patricia Rencher, Jeffery Schade, Michael Sheehan, and Kristie Zamora.

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Douglas Chalgian (excused).

OFFICE OF SERVICES TO THE AGING (OSA) STAFF PRESENT

Kari Sederburg, Wendi Middleton, Sarah Slocum, Scott Wamsley, Heidi Dadow and Carol Dye.

VISITORS/GUESTS PRESENT

Kirk Gleezen and Steve Chambers of Adult Well-Being Services.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Mast asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

A motion was made by Commissioner Schade to approve the agenda. Commissioner Irby seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously with a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES

Commissioner Mast asked for a motion to approve the December 13, 2013, CSA minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner English to approve the minutes. Commissioner Sheehan seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously with a voice vote.

INFORMATION FROM INDIVIDUALS OR DELEGATIONS CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS

None.

COMMISSION CHAIR REPORT

Commissioner Mast stated a State Advisory Council on Aging representing the Social Security Administration is resigning and has made a referral for another to take her place.

Ms. Middleton stated she will call them and provide the application.

OSA Director Report

Director Sederburg provided handouts related to the Governor's State of the State. He is creating the Office of New Americans, a department on immigration, and bolstering funding for education and jobs. He discussed aging and is focusing on older adults around senior protections on the financial side, and on in-home services and home delivered meals to make Michigan a "no-wait" state. He also confirmed he will present an aging message in spring. OSA will begin work on this in February and meet with a variety of providers and organizations, and the Commission to help shape some of his message.

Director Sederburg stated there has been a continuing resolution on the Federal budget. The initial analysis appears there may be no funding reductions, and may present additional funding for nutrition.

Director Sederburg stated Senior Citizen of the Year will honor two older adults at Older Michiganians Day scheduled for June 3rd 2014, on the Capitol Lawn. Commissioner Reid-Smith offered to serve on the committee to judge the applications.

Director Sederburg stated Brad Geller, OSA's Assistant Long Term Care Ombudsman, will retire at the end of January after having worked at OSA for nine years, and many years prior in the network.

Director Sederburg introduced two new University of Michigan interns, Heidi Dadow, who will focus on culture change efforts and grant writing, among other things, and Angie Corcetti who moved here from California. She is working towards her masters in social work, in addition to her law degree, and will focus on advocacy and policy efforts.

Commissioner Burri asked about concerns raised at a public hearing regarding assisted living homes serving less than five residents not needing to be licensed, and how that's proceeding.

Director Sederburg stated a Commission work group was formed that looked at defining assisted living, and a letter was sent to the Governor's office who indicated this will be addressed and they will get back to us.

Commissioner Mast gave assurances that this matter will remain a priority.

Commissioner Newport asked to remain updated on the Office of New Americans being formed.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Discuss & Review Draft CSA Letter to the Legislature re: Senate Bill 636, Which Amends the Michigan Telecommunications Act

Commissioner Mast reviewed the draft letter written on behalf of the Commission to the House of Representatives and the Governor in opposition of Senate Bill 636.

A motion was made by Commissioner Burri to approve the letter to the State House of Representatives and the Governor in opposition of Senate Bill 636, as presented. Commissioner Schade seconded the motion.

Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

Approval of Revised Fiscal Year 2014 Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and Senior Companion Program (SCP) Grants

Scott Wamsley, OSA staff, stated this previously approved grant was awarded to several grantees and two of them merged. As a result, a reallocation needs to be made to move funding from Catholic Social Services of Macomb to Catholic Charities of SE Michigan.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sheehan to approve the revised FY 2014 RSVP and SCP grants, as presented. Commissioner Murray-Brown seconded the motion.

Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

Approval of Alzheimer's Disease Supportive Services Programs: Year Four Grant Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 14

Wendi Middleton, OSA staff, stated an ADSSP grant was received and awarded to several AAA grantees. Permission was received to carry over FY 14 unexpended funds, which will be used to support implementation, training and sustainability activities and quality management and reporting requirements of the Creating Confident Caregivers, Michigan's Expansion Project, using the Savvy Caregiver Program.

A motion was made by Commissioner Zamora to approve the ADSSP Year Four grant awards for FY 14, as presented. Commissioner Ilardo seconded the motion.

Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

Approval to Submit Request for Proposal (RFP) for Bids to House State Long Term Care Ombudsman Office (SLTCO) Outside of Office of Services to the Aging (OSA)

Commissioner Mast clarified this request is seek approval to prepare an RFP for bid, which will come before the Commission for review and approval to submit.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sheehan for OSA to work with the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget to draft an RFP for provision of SLTCO services through an OSA-contracted non-profit agency. Commissioner English seconded the motion.

Sarah Slocum, OSA's State Long Term Care Ombudsman, provided the Ombudsman budget, and a page from OSA's annual report that provides basic data about what the program does.

Director Sederburg stated OSA feels strongly about moving forward with the RFP process, with the priority on putting the people we're serving first, noting local ombudsman are some of the best, most dedicated advocates. Reconfiguring the current structure will drive more resources to the local level, and uniformity and realignment will bolster the program. The SLTCO office has not received a funding increase since 1988, and federal dollars have only decreased since, so limited resources are being stretched, and remaining in State Government is more costly. As well, there will be opportunities with the integrated care ombudsman and managed care ombudsman, as OSA would not be able to house those ombudsmen. Housing the SLTCO office outside of OSA will create a better, more streamlined ombudsman system, instead of programs being located in different places. With a contract, OSA will still be able to retain control, accountability and oversight.

Commissioner Murray-Brown stated from the perspective of non-profit organizations that may be awarded the contract, consideration of the cost to absorb and maintain employees, manage the program, as well as capacity and culture issues are imperative. They must be able to live up to the quality we want to maintain and improve, and will be very important as we go through the RFP process. She offered to serve in any way to assist the process, and stressed that we look for a non-profit who has a spirit for the work that we're doing.

Commissioner Irby pointed out that state government cannot receive grants such as non-profits can, and may open up additional funding opportunities.

Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

Commissioner Mast appointed a work group consisting of Commissioners Irby, Chalgian and Murray-Brown to represent the Commission in the RFP process. If this goes out for bid, he will appoint another group to look at proposals that come in.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Mast stated the next meeting will be held via conference call on Friday, February 21, 2014.

Director Sederburg provided a map of evidence-based disease prevention programs that shows how Michigan compares to the rest of the country.

Commissioner English announced her son's due date is February 6th.

Commissioner Sheehan is helping with preparations for the Grand Traverse Senior's Spelling Bee this year being held the first week in May. More information to follow.

Commissioner Irby stated he attended an Alzheimer's Café, which is an adult care group and their supporters who are dealing with Alzheimer's or advanced stages of dementia, and they come together once a month for lunch in Marquette.

Commissioner Mast stated Kent County is going to have a renewal of its senior millage on the ballot in August, and they're seeking an extension and increase.

Commissioner Ilardo stated MSU is the home of the Geriatric Education Center and as the current deputy director, she looks forward to a federal grant that was awarded to them to train health care providers, especially those who work in primary care and community settings to better understand the unique issues of the older population. They currently have a considerable ongoing initiative to train providers in dementia, and she is excited about how they can dovetail with OSA.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Mast asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Irby. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burri.

The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Commissioner Mast adjourned the meeting at 11:11 AM.